

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 43, as shown below. A complete listing of the claims, including their current status, is provided below.

1. – 26. (Cancelled)

27. **(Previously presented)** A method of screening for a bioactive agent capable of modulating PARP activity comprising the steps of:

contacting a candidate bioactive agent with a Tankyrase H (TaHo) protein in the presence of a source of ADP-ribose, wherein the TaHo protein is encoded by a nucleic acid having at least 90% identity to the nucleic acid sequence set forth in Figure 1 (SEQ ID NO:1) or Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO:2); and

determining the amount of poly ADP-ribose produced by said TaHo protein.

28. **(Previously presented)** A method according to claim 27, wherein said candidate bioactive agent is a small molecule.

29. **(Previously presented)** A method according to claim 27, wherein said candidate bioactive agent is a peptide.

30. **(Previously presented)** A method according to claim 27, wherein said source of poly ADP-ribose is NAD.

31. – 37. (Cancelled)

38. **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 27, wherein said TaHo protein has PARP activity.

39. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 27, wherein said source of poly ADP-ribose is biotinylated NAD.

40. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 27, wherein said source of poly ADP-ribose is radioactively labeled NAD.

41. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 27, wherein said TaHo protein has an amino acid sequence that is at least 95% identical to an amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NOS:3 or 4.

42. (Previously presented) The method of claim 41, wherein said TaHo protein has PARP activity.

43. (Currently amended) A method of screening for a bioactive agent capable of modulating PARP activity comprising the steps of: contacting a candidate bioactive agent with a Tankyrase H (TaHo) protein in the presence of a source of ADP-ribose, The method of claim 41, wherein said Taho protein has an amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:3 or 4; and determining the amount of poly ADP-ribose produced by said TaHo protein